Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. Please amend claims 1-24 as follows:

1.      (Currently Amended)   An information processing system in which a plurality of server modules and a storage module, which comprises a storage device for storing a service to be executed by said server modules and a controller for controlling said storage device, are interconnected via a network,

wherein said storage module further comprises a system configuration information retention database for retaining system configuration information including [[the]] information about [[the]] necessary configuration of each server module modules necessary for [[the]] execution of said service and the number of server modules to which said service is to be assigned;

wherein each of said server modules comprise comprises a configuration information transmission unit for transmitting configuration information about each of the server modules to said storage module at the time of starting each of the server modules; and

wherein said storage module comprises a comparison routine for comparing compares the configuration information transmitted by said configuration information transmission units unit against with the system configuration information retained by said system configuration information retention database, and gives, in accordance with the result results of comparison made by said comparison routine, a host name, which is unique to the information processing system, to [[a]] at least one server module from which the configuration information is transmitted, assigns a service included in the system configuration information to the at least one server module, transmits data for executing the service included in the system configuration information, and updates the number of server modules to which said service, which is included in said system configuration information, is to be assigned.

2.      (Currently Amended)   The information processing system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said server modules retransmit retransmits said configuration information if said storage module fails to transmit the data for executing [[a]] the service even when a predetermined period of time elapses after said configuration information is transmitted by said a configuration information transmission unit of the

at least one of said server modules, and each server module comprises an error reporting ~~routine~~ means for reporting a response error if a predetermined retransmission count is exceeded.

3.      (Currently Amended)    The information processing system according to claim 1, ~~comprising an error report routine for reporting~~ wherein the storage module reports an ~~unassigned~~ assignment error  if the number of server modules, to which said ~~service,~~ ~~which is~~ included in said system configuration information[[,]] is to be assigned, fails to reach a predetermined value within a predetermined period of time after said storage module transmits the data for executing [[a]] the service to said server modules.

4.      (Currently Amended)    The information processing system according to claim 2, ~~comprising an alarm routine for prompting~~ wherein the storage module prompts a system administrator to modify said system configuration information if said response error or said ~~unassigned~~ assignment error is reported.

5.      (Currently Amended)    The information processing system according to claim 1,
          wherein the configuration information transmitted by ~~said~~ each configuration information transmission unit includes a standardized CPU name and standardized CPU performance information;
          wherein said storage module further comprises a conversion information retention unit for retaining conversion information necessary for conversion between server module CPU performance information and standardized CPU performance information required for running said service and a conversion ~~routine~~ unit for converting CPU performance information included in ~~said~~ each configuration information in accordance with said conversion information; and
          wherein said ~~comparison routine means~~ storage module compares CPU performance information converted by said conversion ~~routine~~ unit and corresponding information retained by said ~~corresponding~~ system configuration information retention unit.

6.	(Currently Amended)   The information processing system according to claim 1, further comprising a logical partitioning ~~routine~~ means for logically partitioning a resource of said server modules,

wherein ~~said~~ each configuration information includes information that indicates whether each of the server modules can be logically partitioned; and

wherein said storage module assigns [[a]] the service included in said system configuration information to each one of a plurality of logically partitioned units.

7.	(Currently Amended)   A server module which is connected via a network to a storage module, which comprises a storage device for storing a service to be executed by the server module and a controller for controlling said storage device, the server module comprising:

a configuration information transmission unit for transmitting configuration information about the server module to said storage module when the server module starts up;

a reception unit for receiving data for service execution by the server module and a host name unique to [[the]] an information processing system which includes the server module, ~~which are~~ both the data and the host name being transmitted from said storage module; and

a service start ~~routine~~ means for starting the service in accordance with the received data.

8.	(Currently Amended)   A storage module which is connected to a plurality of server modules via a network and equipped with a storage device for storing a service to be executed by said server modules and a controller for controlling said storage device, the storage module comprising:

a system configuration information retention unit for retaining system configuration information including [[the]] information about [[the]] necessary configuration of each server module ~~modules necessary~~ for [[the]] execution of said service and the number of server modules to which said service is to be assigned,

wherein each of said server modules ~~comprise~~ comprises a configuration information transmission unit for transmitting configuration information about each of

the server modules to said storage module at the time of starting <u>each of</u> the server modules; and

wherein said storage module <u>further</u> comprises a comparison ~~routine~~ <u>means</u> for comparing configuration information about said server modules, which is transmitted by the server modules, and the system configuration information retained by said system configuration information retention unit, and gives, in accordance with ~~the result~~ <u>results</u> of comparison made by said comparison ~~routine~~ <u>means</u>, a host name, which is unique to the information processing system, to [[a]] <u>at least one</u> server module from which the configuration information is transmitted, assigns a service included in the system configuration information to the <u>at least one</u> server module, transmits data for executing the service <u>included in the system configuration information</u>, and updates the number of server modules to which said service, which is included in said system configuration information, is to be assigned.

9. (Currently Amended) A system construction method for use in an information processing system in which a plurality of server modules and a storage module, which comprises a storage device for storing a service to be executed by said server modules and a controller for controlling said storage device, are interconnected via a network, <u>the method comprising the steps of:</u>

~~wherein~~ <u>with each of</u> said server modules<u>, transmitting</u> ~~transmit~~ configuration information about <u>each of</u> the server modules to said storage module at the time of starting <u>each of</u> the server modules; <u>and</u>

~~wherein~~ <u>with</u> said storage module<u>, comparing</u> ~~compares~~ configuration information transmitted from said server modules ~~against~~ <u>with</u> system configuration information including information about [[the]] <u>necessary</u> configuration of <u>each</u> server <u>module</u> ~~modules necessary~~ for [[the]] execution of said service and the number of server modules to which said service is to be assigned; and ~~gives~~ <u>giving</u>, in accordance with ~~the result~~ <u>results</u> of the ~~above~~ comparison, a host name, which is unique to the information processing system, to [[a]] <u>at least one</u> server module from which the configuration information is transmitted, ~~assigns~~ <u>assigning</u> a service included in the system configuration information to the <u>at least one</u> server module, ~~transmits~~ <u>transmitting</u> data for executing the service <u>included in the said system configuration information</u>, and ~~updates~~ <u>updating</u> the number of server modules to

which said service, which is included in said system configuration information, is to be assigned.

10.    (Currently Amended)  The system construction method according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

retransmitting said configuration information if the data for service execution is not transmitted from said storage module within a predetermined time after the transmission of said configuration information; and

reporting a response error if said retransmission is performed more than a predetermined number of times.

11.    (Currently Amended)  The system construction method according to claim 9, further comprising [[a]] the step of reporting an "unassigned" assignment error if the number of server modules, to which said service, which is included in said system configuration information[[,]] is to be assigned, fails to reach a predetermined value within a predetermined period of time after said storage module transmits data for executing [[a]] the service to said server modules.

12.    (Currently Amended)  An information processing system in which a plurality of server modules and a storage module, which comprises a storage device for storing a service to be executed by said server modules and a controller for controlling said storage device, are interconnected via a network,

wherein said storage module further comprises

a system configuration information retention unit for retaining system configuration information including [[the]] information about [[the]] necessary configuration conditions for each server module modules necessary for [[the]] execution of said service and the number of server modules operating said service; and

a configuration condition request transmission means for transmitting to said server modules, at startup of the server modules, a configuration condition request including [[the]] a request for [[the]] necessary configuration of each of said server modules necessary for the execution of said service; and

-6-

wherein each of said server modules comprise comprises a comparison routine means for comparing [[the]] configuration of [[a]] each server module against a with each server module configuration required for [[the]] execution of said service, which is transmitted to [[the]] each server module; and a response routine means for transmitting response information, which indicates whether requirements specified by said configuration condition request are met, to said storage module in accordance with the result results of the comparison made by said comparison routine; and

wherein said storage module gives, in accordance with said response information, a host name, which is unique to the information processing system, to [[a]] at least one server module from which the response information is transmitted, assigns a service included in the system configuration information to the at least one server module, transmits data for executing the service included in said system configuration information, and updates the number of server modules to which said service, which is included in said system configuration information, is to be assigned.

13. (Currently Amended) The information processing system according to claim 12, further comprising an error report routine means for reporting a configuration condition error if none of said response information meets the requirements specified by said configuration condition request.

14. (Currently Amended) The information processing system according to claim 12, further comprising an error report routine means for reporting an "unassigned" assignment error if the number of server modules, to which said service, which is included in said system configuration information[[,]] is to be assigned, fails to reach a predetermined value within a predetermined period of time after said storage module transmits data for executing [[a]] the service to said server modules.

15. (Currently Amended) The information processing system according to claim 13, further comprising an alarm routine means for prompting a system administrator to modify said system configuration information if said configuration condition error or said "unassigned" assignment error is reported.

16.	(Currently Amended)   The information processing system according to claim 12, wherein configuration information request information transmitted by said configuration condition request transmission unit comprises a standardized CPU name, standardized CPU performance information, and conversion information that is necessary for conversion between server module CPU performance information and standardized CPU performance information required for running said service; and

wherein said server modules comprise a conversion unit for converting CPU performance information included in said configuration information request information in accordance with said conversion information; and

wherein said comparison unit compares CPU performance information converted by said conversion unit and corresponding information retained by said ~~corresponding~~ system configuration information retention unit.


17.	(Currently Amended)   The information processing system according to claim 12, further comprising: a logical partitioning ~~routine~~ means for logically dividing a resource of said server modules,

wherein ~~said~~ each response information includes information that indicates whether each of the server modules can be logically partitioned; and

wherein said storage module assigns [[a]] the service included in said system configuration information to each one of a plurality of logically partitioned units.


18.	(Currently Amended)   A server module that is connected via a network to a storage module, which comprises a storage device for storing a service to be executed by a server module and a controller for controlling said storage device, the server module comprising:

a startup notification unit for notifying said storage module of server module startup;

a reception unit for receiving, from said storage module, a configuration condition request including [[the]] a request for [[the]] configuration of [[a]] the server module that is transmitted at startup of said server module and necessary for the execution of said service for the server module;

-8-

a comparison unit for comparing the configuration of the server module ~~against~~ <u>with</u> a server module configuration required for the execution of said service, which is transmitted to the server module;

a response unit for transmitting response information, which indicates whether requirements specified by said configuration condition request are met, to said storage module in accordance with [[the]] <u>a</u> result of comparison made by said comparison unit;

a reception unit for receiving data for service execution by the server module and a host name unique to the information processing system, ~~which are~~ both <u>the data and the host name being</u> transmitted from said storage module; and

a service start unit for starting the service in accordance with the received data.


19.     (Currently Amended)  A storage module which is connected to a plurality of server modules via a network and equipped with a storage device for storing a service to be executed by said server modules and a controller for controlling said storage device, the storage module comprising:

a system configuration information retention unit for retaining system configuration information including [[the]] information about server module configuration conditions required for [[the]] execution of said service and the number of server modules operating said service; and

a configuration condition request transmission unit for transmitting, at the time of starting <u>each of</u> said server modules, a configuration condition request including [[the]] <u>a</u> request for server module configuration required for executing said service for <u>each of</u> the server modules,

wherein said storage module provides, in accordance with response information that is transmitted from said server modules to indicate whether requirements specified by said configuration condition request are met, a host name, which is unique to the information processing system, to a server module ~~from which the~~ <u>transmitting</u> response information ~~is transmitted~~ <u>which indicates the requirements specified by said configuration condition request are met</u>, assigns a service included in the system configuration information to the server module <u>transmitting the response information which indicates the requirements specified by said configuration condition request are met</u>, transmits data for executing the service <u>included in the</u>

-9-

system configuration information, and updates the number of server modules to which said service, which is included in said system configuration information, is to be assigned.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for use in an information processing system in which a plurality of server modules and a storage module, which comprises a storage device for storing a service to be executed by said server modules and a controller for controlling said storage device, are interconnected via a network, the method comprising:

sending a notification from said server modules to notify said storage module of server module startup;

transmitting from said storage module at said server module startup[[,]] a configuration condition request including [[the]] a request for server module configuration required for the execution of said service to the server modules;

comparing in said server modules the configuration of [[a]] each server module against with the server module configuration required for [[the]] execution of said each service for the server module, and

transmitting, in accordance with the result results of said comparison, to said storage module response information to said storage module in order to indicate indicating whether requirements specified by said configuration condition request are met; and

providing from said storage module, in accordance with said response information, a host name, which is unique to the information processing system, to a server module from which the transmitting response information which indicates the requirements specified by said configuration condition request are met is transmitted,

assigning a service included in the system configuration information to the server module transmitting the response information which indicates the requirements specified by said configuration condition request are met,

transmitting data for executing the service, and

updating the number of server modules to which said service which is included in said system configuration information is to be assigned.

21. (Currently Amended) The system construction method according to claim 20, further comprising reporting a configuration condition error if none of ~~said~~ transmitted response information meets the requirements specified by said configuration condition request.

22. (Currently Amended) The system construction method according to claim 20, further comprising:

reporting an [["]]unassigned[["]] assignment error if the number of server modules, to which said service which is included in said system configuration information is to be assigned, fails to reach a predetermined value within a predetermined period of time after said storage module transmits data for executing a service to said server modules.

23. (Currently Amended) The information processing system according to claim 3, further comprising an alarm ~~routine~~ means for prompting a system administrator to modify said system configuration information if said response error or said ~~"unassigned"~~ assignment error is reported.

24. (Currently Amended) The information processing system according to claim 13, further comprising an error report ~~routine~~ means for reporting an ~~"unassigned"~~ assignment error if the number of server modules, to which said service~~, which is~~ included in said system configuration information[[,]] is to be assigned, fails to reach a predetermined value within a predetermined period of time after said storage module transmits data for executing a service to said server modules.

25. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the service is an operating system and/or application.